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DECLASS REVIEW BY NIMA / DoD

TCS No. 7985/64
IB No. 343/64
24 August 1964
Copy No. 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Programs Division, ORR

25X1A ATTENTION : [REDACTED]
THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS
FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT : Abu Zabal Military Factory No. 18
REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR4-81,116 (Revised)
(2) CIA/PID Project No. C 471/64

1. In response to the above referenced requirement, a chronological photo-study was made of the munitions factory near the town of Abu Zabal, Egypt, which is known as Abu Zabal Military Factory #18. The geographic coordinates of this installation are 30° 15'N - 31° 24'E and it is located approximately 17 statute miles NNE of the center of Cairo. The facility is served by both road and rail and in addition has a canal system within three statute miles.

25X1D 2. The study covers a period extending from [REDACTED] 25X1D
25X1D Since the factory was basically completed by early [REDACTED] and since
25X1D scale and quality of [REDACTED] photography was good, the annotations appear on
25X1D an overlay to CIA/PID/IB-P-1203/64, [REDACTED] instead of
the more recent coverage. There are two overlays attached to this
photograph (Figure 5), one describing features of the plant and the other
showing the observable portion of the pipe line system.

25X1D 3. [REDACTED] (Figure 2), shows the
factory at its time of maximum construction activity. At this stage the plant
was obviously not in production. The rail spur bed was not completed, and
of the major structures, only the warehousing and personnel housing area
appear near completion. The various construction sites are annotated.

25X1D 4. [REDACTED] (Figure 3), shows that all construction
started three years previously has been completed. In addition, vegetation
is growing under irrigation, probably for a dual purpose; (a) to reduce
wind erosion, and (b) to minimize missile damage in the event of an accidental
explosion. This photography also shows the heavy security around the site
with a high wall, double fencing, and numerous guard towers.

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TCS No. 7985/64
Page 2

SUBJECT: Abu Zabal Military Factory No. 18

25X1D

5. [REDACTED] (Figure 4), shows further construction underway. A large secured storage area is nearly completed approximately 3,000' southeast of the main compound. At the same time, revetted construction is taking place on the southeast side of the complex, just within the wall. It is probable at this time production has begun in the finished portion of the factory, since it appears a burn area has been established adjacent to the plant. This is the fan shaped area just above the new construction. A burn area is needed only by a producing facility for waste disposal.

25X1D

6. The photo from [REDACTED] (Figure 5), shows Factory #18 essentially as it is today. All major construction is completed, steam lines are in, the road serving the storage area is paved, and the spur rail line is extended to the main line.

a. It is reported that Factory #18 manufactures nitrocellulose, nitroglycerine, and TNT. The evidence available from photography tends to confirm these reports, however, it was not possible to identify with certainty the process flow for any of these products.

b. The warehouse area and the water treatment facility are typical of nitrocellulose operations. The large warehouse would be used to store raw cotton with the smaller structures serving a drying purpose. The water facility is required for washing purposes with the thickner being used for cotton recovery. Beyond the water treating area, it was not possible to pick out nitrocellulose flow. The area annotated No. 16 on the overlay to Figure 5 contains interconnected buildings of a type which could be used for nitrating, boiling, and poaching but there is not enough evidence to flatly state their function.

c. The group of buildings numbered 11 on the overlay probably is the TNT manufacturing area. The number and location of buildings, and the connecting pipe lines probably indicate nitrating operations and acid fortifying, required in TNT manufacture.

d. A heavily revetted building with other lesser revetted structures, annotated No. 9, is a possible nitroglycerine facility. The nitration would take place in the most heavily revetted structure, with washing and stabilizing operations being done in the less secured buildings.

e. If nitrocellulose and nitroglycerine are being manufactured at this site, it is probable that double base propellants are also manufactured here. The two structures annotated No. 12 are process buildings rather than storage type and could be used in mixing these propellants.

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TCS No. 7985/64
Page 3

SUBJECT: Abu Zabal Military Factory No. 18

f. The steam plant, annotation No. 8, has several tall columns on the south side of the building. Shadow and poor scale did not permit positive identification, but they are similar to absorption towers used in acid manufacture. There are also vertical tanks, adjacent to the building, which could be used for acid storage.

25X1D 7. [REDACTED] the only good
25X1D coverage, does not show the complete factory. The portions which are
25X1D visible show no change since [REDACTED]

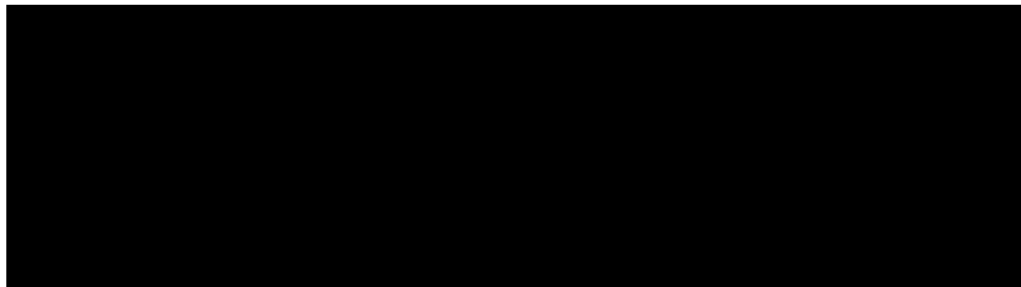
25X1D 8. The next available clear photography is a KEYHOLE [REDACTED]
25X1D (Figure 7). Analysis of this photography shows no major
25X1D changes since [REDACTED] within the munitions factory; however, major construction is taking place immediately adjacent on the northeast. Careful examination of this new industrial facility by several members of the Industrial Branch, PID, failed to produce evidence of its ultimate purpose. It is heavily secured by a high wall and numerous guard towers. Twenty major and several lesser buildings are under construction with the design of the buildings being mostly tall, long and narrow. A group of 15 to 20 horizontal pressure-type tanks were observed on later photography. Steam lines connect most of the buildings. There is no direct physical connection of any type between the new site and the munitions factory. The steam, the horizontal tanks, and the long narrow buildings are typical of nitration operations but this cannot be confirmed. The closeness of the buildings and the lack of barriers indicates the plant will not deal with hazardous materials. Until further photography and information become available the site must be classed as unidentified.

9. Measurements of all major buildings at Abu Zabal Military Factory #18 were made by TID/NPIC. The results of these measurements are set forth in tables keyed to the line drawings attached to this memorandum. The factory was divided into three sections for purposes of measurement, as illustrated.

10. REFERENCES:

MAP:
WAC 447
ATC 447-12

25X1D



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TCS No. 7985/64
Page 4

SUBJECT: Abu Zabal Military Factory No. 18

25X1A 11. The analyst assigned to this project was [REDACTED] who may be contacted on extension 2607 should any questions arise concerning this project. This requirement is considered complete with the issuance of this memorandum.

25X1A

ENCLOSURES:

- 9 Annotated Photos (CIA/PID/IB-P-1209/64)
- 2 Overlays (CIA/PID/IB-P-1209/64)
- 3 Line Drawings (CIA/PID/IB-P-1209/64)

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25X1D

25X1D

MEASUREMENT TABLE -ABU ZABAL AMMUNITION FACTORY
Keyed to [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATION AND HOUSING-AREA KEYED TO FIGURE 10

<u>BUILDING NO.</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS</u>	<u>AREA IN SQ. FT.</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18	30 x 50 approx.	1,500	30'
19	30 x 50	1,500	30'
20	30 x 50	1,500	30'
21	30 x 50	1,500	30'
22	30 x 50	1,500	30'
23	30 x 50	1,500	30'
24	30 x 50	1,500	30'
25	30 x 50	1,500	30'
26	30 x 50	1,500	30'
27	30 x 50	1,500	30'
28	30 x 50	1,500	30'
29	30 x 50	1,500	30'
30	50 x 50	2,500	
31	50 x 50	2,500	
32	Irregular	6,000	
33	Irregular	2,600	
34	Unknown		
35			
36			
37			
38			

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

TOTAL Housing and Administration [REDACTED]

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MANUFACTURING AREA - KEYED TO FIGURE 11

<u>BUILDING NO.</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS</u>	<u>AREA IN SQ. FT.</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>
1			25X1D
2			
3			
4	140 x 80	11,200	20'
5	140 x 80	11,200	20'
6	140 x 80	11,200	20'
7	140 x 80	11,200	20'
8		3,440	
9		3,440	
10		3,440	
11	25 x 45	1,125	
12	80 x 40	3,440	
13			25X1D
14			
15			
16			
17			
18	80 x 70 approx.	5,600	
19	Irregular	2,700	25X1D
20	Irregular		
21	Irregular	2,265	
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			25X1D
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			
34			
35			
36	25 x 20	500	20'
37			
38			25X1D
39			
40			
41	55 x 30	1,650	
42			25X1D
43			
44			
45			

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STORAGE AREA - KEYED TO FIGURE 12

<u>BUILDING NO</u>	<u>DIMENSIONS</u>	<u>AREA IN SQ. FT.</u>
1	Irregular	4,500
2	Irregular	4,500
3	Irregular	4,500



25X1D

20	80 x 25	2,000
21	80 x 25	2,000
22	80 x 25	2,000
23	80 x 25	2,000
24	80 x 25	2,000
25	80 x 25	2,000
26	25 x 15	375

TOTAL Storage Area



25X1D

TOTAL AREA OF ALL THREE ZONES

Housing and Administration
Manufacturing Area
Storage Area



285,000

25X1D



440,995

25X1D

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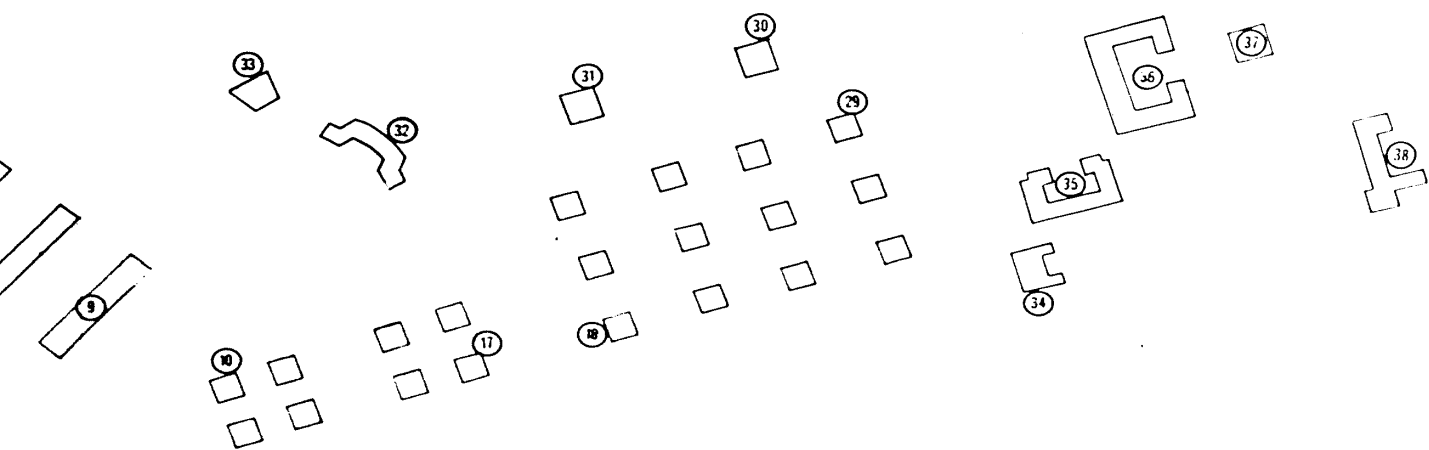
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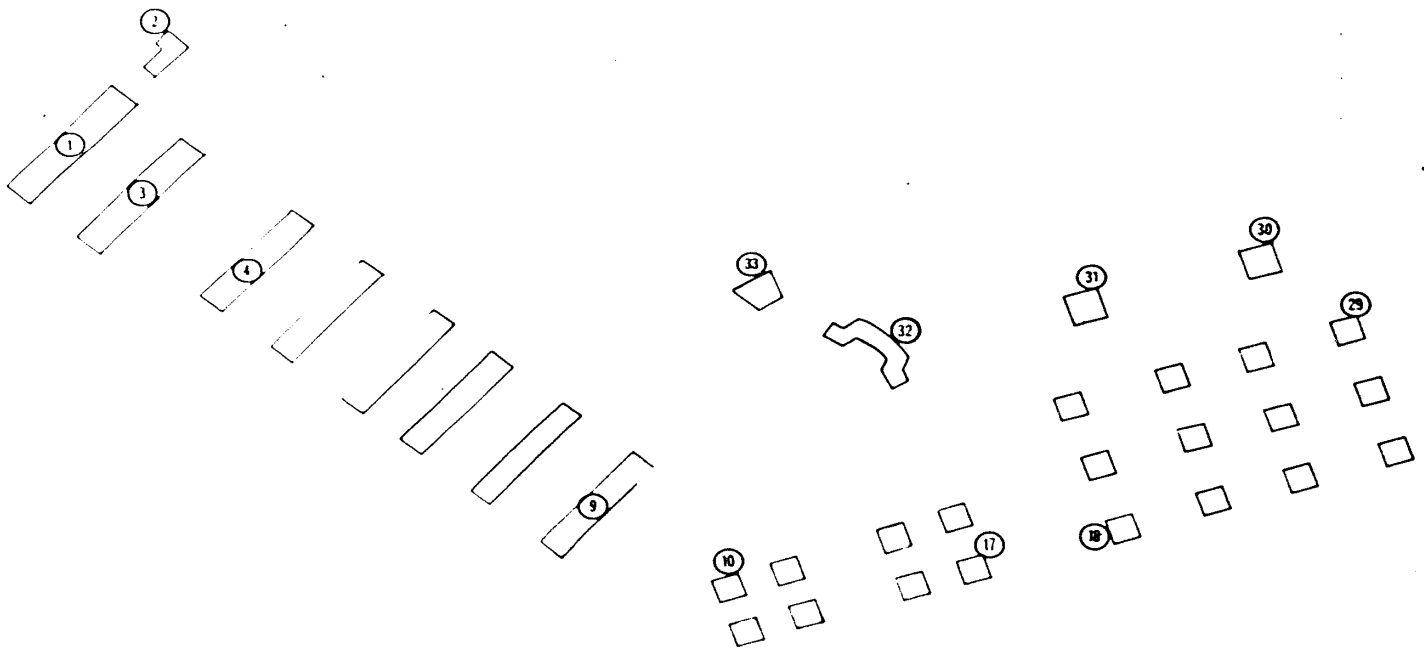
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HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATION AREA

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TOP SECRET - CHESS - RUFF



HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATION AREA

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MANUFACTURING AREA

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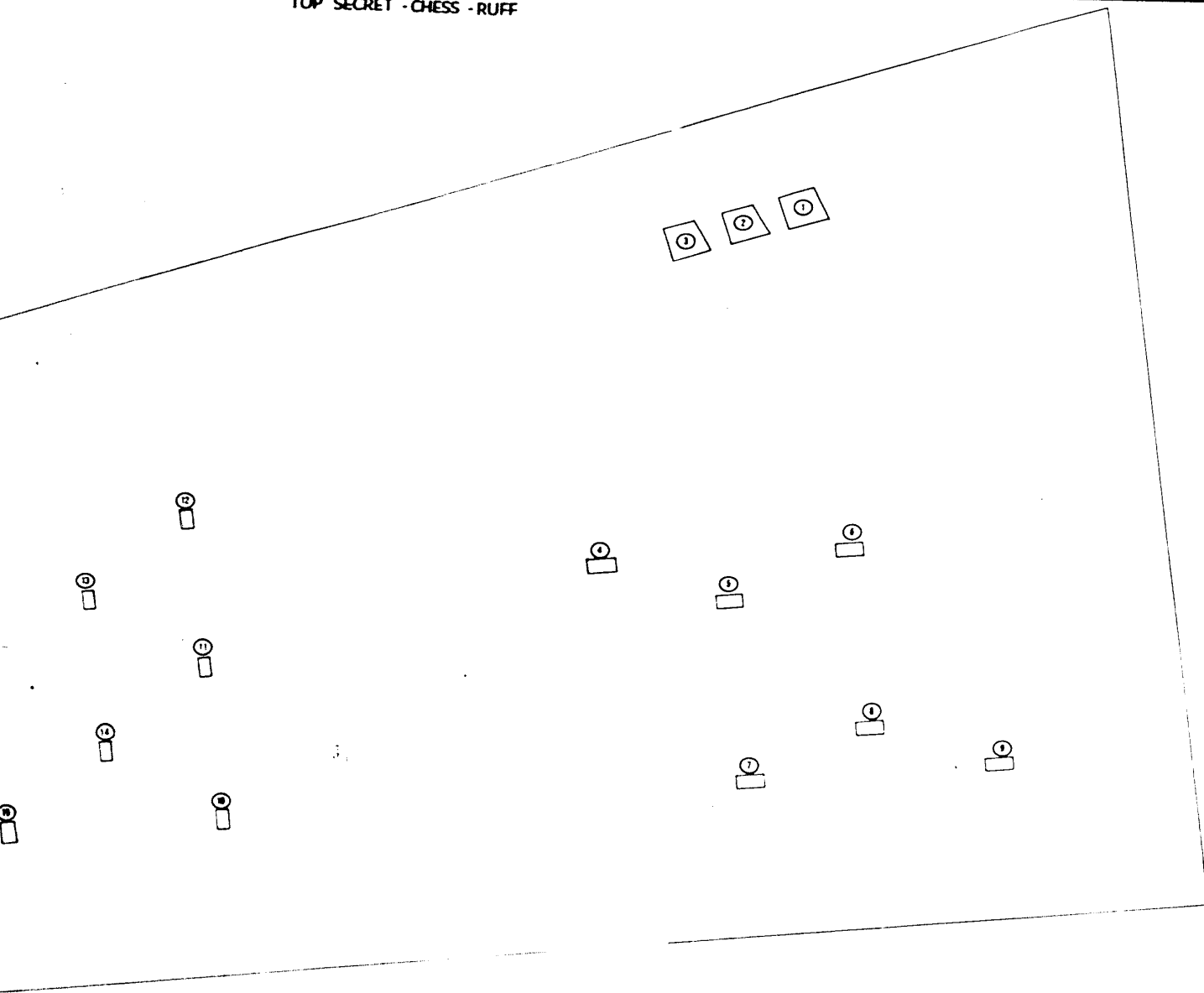
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TOP SECRET-CHESSE-RUFF

FIGURE 11

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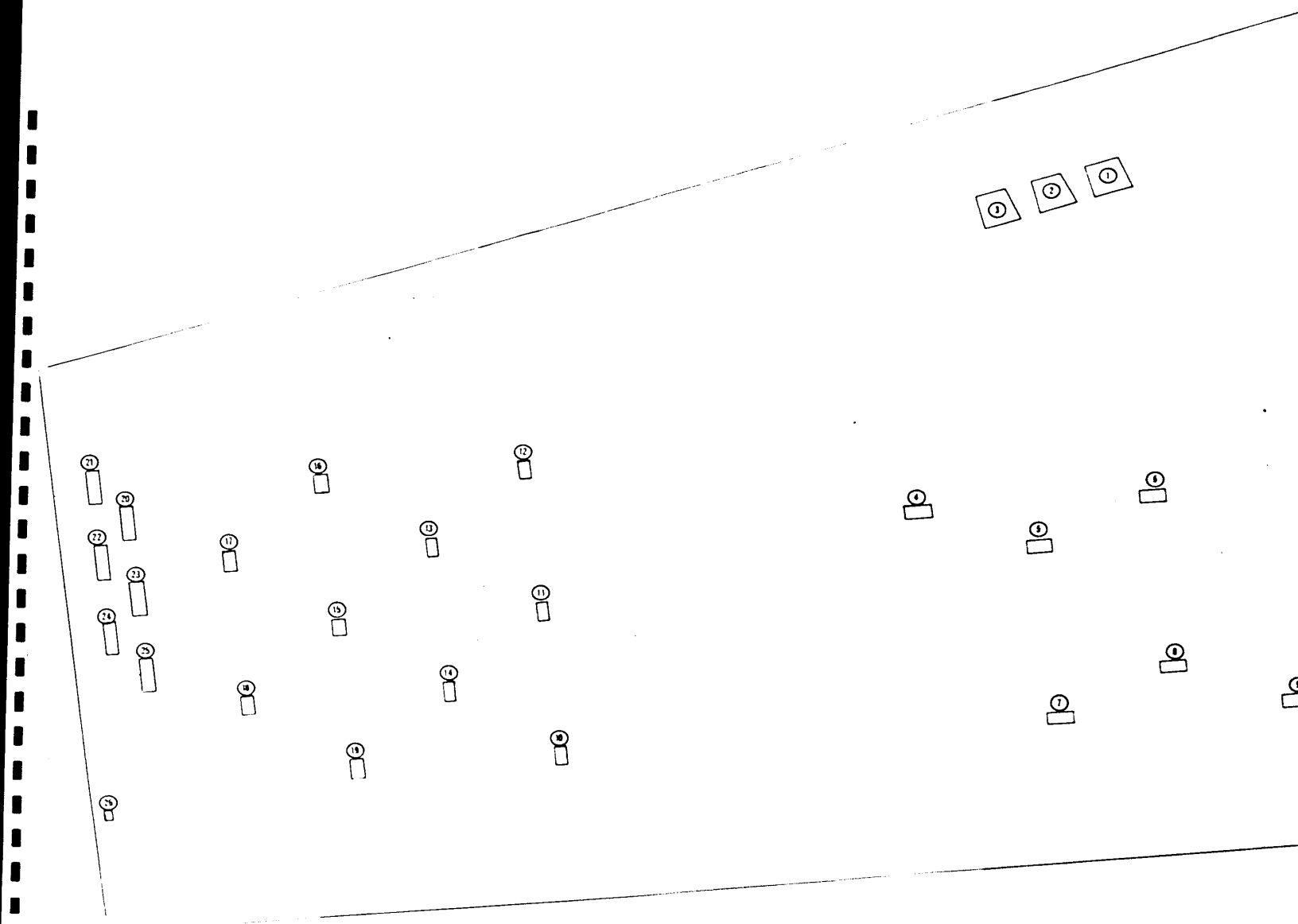


STORAGE AREA

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TOP SECRET -CHESS -RUFF



STORAGE AREA

TOP SECRET -CHESS -RUFF